

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3054
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00262

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ALFONSO OSORIO RESIGNS

REF: MADRID 77-10075

1. FORMER PRESIDENCY MINISTER ALFONSO OSORIO HAS
RESIGNED HIS POSITION AS ONE OF THE SEVEN DESIGNATED
ADVISORS TO PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ (THE OTHER SIX ARE
SANCHEZ TERAN, CALVO-SOTELO, MOYA, LASUEN, MAYOR
ZARAGOZA AND OLARTE). OSORIO REPORTEDLY TOLD THE
PRESS HE HAD RESIGNED IN ORDER TO "REGAIN MY FREEDOM,"
SINCE HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE ATTEMPTS OF THE
SUAREZ GOVT AND UCD TO "WREST FROM THE PSOE ITS 3
MILLION (NON-MARXIST) VOTES," A STRATEGY WHICH, IN
HIS VIEW, WOULD ULTIMATELY BRING A RADICALIZATION OF
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THE PSOE.

2. OSORIO'S RESIGNATION COMES AS NO SURPRISE SUCH
A DISTANCING FROM THE UCD LEADERSHIP PROBABLY WAS
INEVITABLE ONCE SUAREZ DECIDED NOT TO INCLUDE OSORIO
IN THE POST-ELECTIONS GOVT.

3. OSORIO'S BEHAVIOR VIS-A-VIS SUAREZ DURING THE POST-ELECTIONS PERIOD HAS, AT BEST, BEEN COOL.

-- WHEN PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS WERE FORMED IN THE UPPER HOUSE, WHERE OSORIO IS A ROYAL SENATOR, HE OPTED TO SIGN ON WITH THE RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE "INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF THE SENATE," MADE UP OF 10 ROYAL SENATORS, RATHER THAN JOIN THE UCD SENATORIAL GROUP, WHICH OTHER GOVT-CONNECTED ROYAL SENATORS CHOSE TO DO.

-- A CONSERVATIVE "REGIME" CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AND FORMER ASSOCIATE OF CURRENT ALIANZA POPULAR (AP) LEADER FEDERICO SILVA MUNOZ, OSORIO HAS PERIODICALLY EXPRESSED PUBLICLY HIS OPPOSITION TO THE SUAREZ GOVT'S "CENTER-LEFT" POLICIES AND INSISTED THAT THE GOVT AND UCD ASSUME A WELL-DEFINED "CENTER-RIGHT" POSTURE.

-- OSORIO REPORTEDLY RESISTED THE DISSOLUTION OF ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA'S CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC), OF WHICH HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE LEADERSHIP, AND THE INTEGRATION OF ITS MEMBERS IN UCD. HE ALSO HAS HAD PERIODIC TALKS WITH HIS FORMER ADVERSARY JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES AND OTHER "OPPOSITION" CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WITH A VIEW TO "MAINTAINING THE CD IDENTITY," A CODE PHRASE FOR OPPOSITION TO THE CRYSTALLIZATION OF UCD AS A UNITARY PARTY. WE ASSUME THESE CONTACTS CONTINUE, AND MAY ACCELERATE NOW THAT OSORIO HAS FORMALLY PUT MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND SUAREZ.
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4. OSORIO'S RESIGNATION AND STATED REASON FOR IT APPEAR TO CONFIRM WHAT UCD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR) ARTURO MOYA RECENTLY TOLD US; I.E. THAT THE PARTY HAD DECIDED ON A POLITICAL STRATEGY OF GOING AFTER THE PSOE'S 3 MILLION NON-MARXIST VOTERS. MOYA BELIEVED THIS WOULD BE WELL WORTH COSTING UCD "500,000 VOTES ON THE RIGHT." STABLER

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